

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

Claims 1-30 are canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. Claims 31-48 are added. The following is the status of the claims of the above-captioned application, as amended.

Claims 1-30 (Cancelled.)

Claim 31. (New.) A variant of a parent Fungamyl-like alpha-amylase, comprising an alteration at one or more regions selected from the group consisting of Region 98-110 and Region 161-167, wherein (a) the alteration(s) are independently

- (i) an insertion of an amino acid downstream of the amino acid which occupies the position,
- (ii) a deletion of the amino acid which occupies the position, or
- (iii) a substitution of the amino acid which occupies the position with a different amino acid,

(b) the variant has alpha-amylase activity and (c) each region or position corresponds to a region position of the amino acid sequence of the parent Fungamyl-like alpha-amylase having the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 2.

Claim 32. (New.) The variant of claim 31, wherein the variant includes the following substitution: Q153S.

Claim 33. (New.) The variant of claim 31, wherein the variant has improved thermostability and/or increased stability at acidic pH.

Claim 34. (New.) A composition for producing high maltose syrup comprising the variant of claim 31.

Claim 35. (New.) A dough improving composition, comprising the variant of claim 31.

Claim 36. (New.) A brewing composition, comprising the variant of claim 31.

Claim 37. (New.) The brewing composition of claim 41, further comprising at least one enzyme selected from the group consisting of beta-amylase and isoamylase enzymes.

Claim 38. (New.) A composition for producing alcohol, comprising the variant of claim 31.

Claim 39. (New.) The variant of claim 31 wherein said variant is immobilized.

Claim 40. (New.) The variant of claim 31, wherein the alteration is an alteration in Region 98-110.

Claim 41. (New.) The variant of claim 31, wherein the alteration is an alteration in Region 161-167.

Claim 42. (New.) The variant of claim 31, wherein the parent Fungamyl-like alpha-amylase has at least 70% identity to SEQ ID NO:2.

Claim 43. (New.) The variant of claim 31, wherein the parent Fungamyl-like alpha-amylase has at least 80% identity to SEQ ID NO:2.

Claim 44. (New.) The variant of claim 31, wherein the parent Fungamyl-like alpha-amylase has at least 90% identity to SEQ ID NO:2.

Claim 45 (New.) The variant of claim 31, wherein the parent Fungamyl-like alpha-amylase has at least 93% identity to SEQ ID NO:2.

Claim 46 (New.) The variant of claim 31, wherein the parent Fungamyl-like alpha-amylase has at least 95% identity to SEQ ID NO:2.

Claim 47. (New.) The variant of claim 31, wherein the parent Fungamyl-like alpha-amylase has at least 97% identity to SEQ ID NO:2.

Claim 48. (New.) The variant of claim 31, wherein the parent Fungamyl-like alpha-amylase has at least 99% identity to SEQ ID NO:2.